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Environment and sustainable development: further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Ahmed **Amaziane** (Morocco)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 95 (see A/55/582, para. 2). Action on sub-item (d) was taken at the 32nd, 34th and 42nd meetings, on 8 and 15 November and on 8 December 2000. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/55/SR.32, 34 and 42).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/55/L.21 and A/C.2/55/L.59

2. At the 32nd meeting, on 8 November, the representative of Nigeria, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Further implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/55/L.21), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/55/582 and Add.1-8.

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"*Recalling also* its resolutions 51/183 of 16 December 1996, 52/202 of 18 December 1997, 53/189 of 15 December 1998 and 54/224 of 22 December 1999,

"*Recognizing* that small island developing States, given their size, limited resources, geographic dispersion and isolation from markets, face special challenges and unique vulnerabilities of an environmental and an economic nature in their efforts to achieve sustainable development, which are exacerbated by globalization and trade liberalization,

"*Recalling* the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

"*Recalling also* the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted at the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly,

"*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

"*Having also considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the tenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

"*Taking note* of the report of the second Alliance of Small Island States workshop on climate change negotiations, management and strategy, which was held at Apia from 26 July to 4 August 2000,

"*Noting* the significant efforts by small island developing States to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States at the national and regional levels and the need for them to receive adequate financial support from the international community,

"*Acknowledging* the efforts of small island developing States to convene, in cooperation with the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, a series of capacity-building workshops targeted at issues of specific relevance to Small Island Developing States,

"*Welcoming* the offer of the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis to host the first Alliance of Small Island States workshop on the biosafety protocol in December 2000 and the offer of the Government of Cyprus to host the third Alliance of Small Island States workshop on climate change, energy and preparations for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in January 2001,

"*Bearing in mind* the continued need for financing of the projects that were presented for financing within the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States at the meeting of representatives of donor countries and small island developing States held in New York from 24 to 26 February 1999,

"*Noting with appreciation* the contribution by some donor countries towards further implementation of the Programme of Action, and underscoring the need for these efforts to be intensified and supplemented by other donor countries and agencies,

"1. *Reiterates* the urgent need for strong and effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and of the Declaration and review document adopted by the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly, and requests the relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations system and the regional commissions and organizations to reflect measures for implementation of the Programme of Action in their respective programmes;

"2. *Invites* the relevant agencies within the United Nations system in the preparation of the ten-year review of the Global Conference on the Environment and Development, to identify measures that would ensure the effective implementation of the Programme of Action;

"3. *Calls upon* Member States, in particular the donor community, as well as the relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations system and the regional commissions and organizations, to support the efforts of small island developing States in the further implementation of the Programme of Action through, inter alia, the provision of adequate technical and financial resources, taking into account the Declaration and review document for further implementation and effective follow-up;

"4. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations system to assist small island developing States in their efforts to respond adequately to the challenges of globalization, including in the field of information and communication technologies, and to enhance their capacity to effectively utilize the benefits and mitigate the implications of globalization;

"5. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to participate fully in the activities identified for the further implementation of and effective follow-up to the Programme of Action;

"6. *Urges* all relevant organizations to finalize, as a matter of urgency the work on the development of a vulnerability index for small island developing States, and decides to defer any decision on the graduation of least developed countries until the work on the vulnerability index can properly inform discussions on such a decision;

"7. *Welcomes* the strengthening of the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and requests the Secretary-General to further strengthen the Unit, inter alia, by establishing the Small Island Developing States Information Network on a permanent basis within the Unit and by assisting small island developing States with, inter alia, project implementation advice and assistance in the identification of short/long-term capacity needs through coordination with regional and international institutions;

"8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session, under the item entitled 'Environment and sustainable development', a

sub-item entitled 'Further implementation of the Programme for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States';

"9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. At the 42nd meeting, on 8 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Navid Hanif (Pakistan), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Further implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/55/L.59), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.21.

4. At the same meeting, the representative of Barbados, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the Alliance of the Small Island States, made a statement (see A/C.2/55/SR.42).

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.59 (see para. 13, draft resolution I).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.59, draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.21 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

7. At the same meeting, on 8 December, the representative of Turkey made a statement (see A/C.2/55/SR.42).

8. Also, at the same meeting, the representative of Cyprus made a statement in the exercise of the right of reply, in accordance with rule 115 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (see A/C.2/55/SR.42).

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/55/L.30 and A/C.2/55/L.57

9. At the 34th meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Nigeria, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Protection and sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea" (A/C.2/55/L.30), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Reaffirming* the principles and commitments enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, and the principles embodied in the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 1994, as well as other relevant declarations and international instruments,

"*Recalling* the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,

"*Taking into account* all other relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, including resolution 54/225,

"*Reaffirming* the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and emphasizing the universal and unified character of the Convention,

"*Recalling* the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, signed at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 24 March 1983, which contains the definition of the wider Caribbean region of which the Caribbean Sea is a part, and recalling also the relevant work done by the International Maritime Organization,

"*Considering* that the Caribbean Sea includes a large number of States, countries and territories, most of which are developing countries and small island developing States which are ecologically fragile, structurally weak and economically vulnerable and also affected by, inter alia, their limited capacity, narrow resource base, need for financial resources, high levels of poverty and the resulting social problems and the challenges of globalization and trade liberalization,

"*Recognizing* that the Caribbean Sea has a unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystem,

"*Emphasizing* that the Caribbean countries have a high degree of vulnerability occasioned by climate change and variability, associated phenomena, such as sea level rise, the El Niño/Southern Oscillation Phenomenon and the increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters caused by hurricanes, floods and droughts, and that they are also subject to natural disasters, such as those caused by volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes,

"*Welcomes* the establishment of the working group on the El Niño/La Niña phenomenon within the framework of the Inter-Agency Task Force on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,

"*Bearing in mind* the heavy reliance of most of the Caribbean economies on their coastal areas as well as on the marine environment in general to achieve their sustainable development needs and goals,

"*Acknowledging* the intensive use of the Caribbean Sea for maritime transport and the considerable number and interlocking character of the maritime areas under national sovereignty and jurisdiction in the Caribbean Sea, which present a challenge for the effective management of the resources,

"*Noting* the increasing threat of pollution from ship-generated waste as well as from the accidental release of hazardous and noxious substances,

"*Mindful* of the diversity and dynamic interaction and competition among socio-economic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources,

"*Bearing in mind also* the efforts of the Caribbean countries to address in a more holistic manner the sectoral issues relating to the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea and in so doing to promote the protection and sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea,

"*Noting* the efforts of the Caribbean countries, within the framework of the Association of Caribbean States, to develop further and seek their concept

of the Caribbean Sea as an area of special importance in the context of sustainable development,

"*Cognizant* of the importance of the Caribbean Sea to present and future generations and its importance to the heritage, the continuing economic well-being and sustenance of people living in the area and the urgent need for the countries of the region to take appropriate steps for its preservation and protection, with the adequate support of the international community,

"1. *Recognizes* the need for the protection and sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea;

"2. *Encourages* the further protection and sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea, in accordance with the recommendations contained in its resolution 54/225 as well as the provisions of Agenda 21, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly and the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

"3. *Calls on* the United Nations system to assist Caribbean countries in their efforts to ensure the protection of the Caribbean Sea from degradation as a result of pollution from ships, in particular through the illegal release of oil and other harmful substances, and as a result of pollution by dumping of hazardous waste, including radioactive materials, nuclear waste and dangerous chemicals;

"4. *Also calls on* the international community, the United Nations system and the multilateral financial institutions, including the Global Environment Facility, to actively support and further develop and implement the above-mentioned approach;

"5. *Calls on* Member States to give priority to improving their emergency response capabilities and to the containment of environmental damage, particularly in the Caribbean Sea, in the event of natural disasters or of an accident or incident relating to maritime navigation;

"6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-seventh session, under a sub-item entitled 'Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States' of the item entitled 'Environment and sustainable development', on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account the views expressed by relevant regional organizations."

10. At the 42nd meeting, on 8 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Navid Hanif (Pakistan), introduced a draft resolution, entitled "Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development" (A/C.2/55/L.57), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.30.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.57 (see para. 13, draft resolution II).

12. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.57, draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.30 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

13. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Further implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Recalling also its resolutions 51/183 of 16 December 1996, 52/202 of 18 December 1997, 53/189 of 15 December 1998 and 54/224 of 22 December 1999,

Recognizing that small island developing States, given their size, limited resources, geographic dispersion and, in most cases, isolation from markets, face special challenges and unique vulnerabilities of an environmental and economic nature in their efforts to achieve sustainable development and the need to enhance their capacity to effectively benefit from the opportunities presented by trade liberalization and globalization, while minimizing their negative impact on small island developing States,

Recalling the Declaration of Barbados[1] and the Programme of Action of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[2]

Recalling also the Declaration[3] and review document[3] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[4]

Having also considered the report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on its tenth session,[5]

Taking note of the report of the second Alliance of Small Island States workshop on climate change negotiations, management and strategy, which was held at Apia, Samoa, from 26 July to 4 August 2000,[6]

Noting the significant efforts to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States at the national, regional and international level and the need for regional and global institutions to continue

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[1] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] See resolution S-22/2, annex.

[4] A/55/185.

[5] TD/390.

[6] A/C.2/55/3.

to supplement those efforts being made at the national level, including through effective financial support,

Acknowledging the efforts of small island developing States to convene, in cooperation with the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, a series of capacity-building workshops targeted at issues of specific relevance to small island developing States,

Welcoming the offer of the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis to host the first Alliance of Small Island States workshop on the biosafety protocol in December 2000 and the offer of the Government of Cyprus to host the third Alliance of Small Island States workshop on climate change, energy and preparations for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in January 2001,

Bearing in mind the continued need for financing of the projects that were presented within the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, inter alia, at the meeting of representatives of donor countries and small island developing States held in New York from 24 to 26 February 1999,[7]

Noting with appreciation the contribution by some donor countries towards further implementation of the Programme of Action, and underscoring the need for these efforts to be intensified and supplemented by other donor countries and agencies,

Noting the work being undertaken by the Committee on Development Policy and other international organizations on a vulnerability index, which incorporates, inter alia, environmental and economic vulnerability factors,

1. *Reiterates* the urgent need for strong and effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[2] and of the Declaration[3] and review document[4] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session;

2. *Welcomes* efforts at the national, regional and subregional level to implement the Programme of Action;

3. *Invites* the relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations system and the regional commissions and organizations, within their respective mandates, to reflect measures for the implementation of the Programme of Action in their programmes;

4. *Invites* the relevant agencies within the United Nations system, in the preparation of the ten-year review of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,[8] to identify measures that would ensure the effective implementation of the Programme of Action;

5. *Calls upon* Member States, in particular the donor community, as well as the relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations system and the regional commissions and organizations, to support the efforts of small island developing States in the further implementation of the Programme of Action through, inter alia, the provision of adequate technical and financial resources, taking into account the

[7] See A/S-22/4.

[8] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda).

Declaration and review document for further implementation and effective follow-up;

6. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations system to assist small island developing States in their efforts to enhance their capacities to effectively utilize the benefits and mitigate the implications of globalization, including by bridging the digital divide and fostering digital opportunities in the field of information and communication technologies;

7. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to participate fully in the activities identified for the further implementation and effective follow-up to the Programme of Action;

8. *Urges* all relevant organizations to finalize, as a matter of urgency, the work on the development of a vulnerability index;

9. *Welcomes* the strengthened Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, and requests the Secretary-General to consider ways to further strengthen the Unit, inter alia, by establishing the Small Island Developing States Information Network within the Unit and by assisting small island developing States with, inter alia, project implementation advice and assistance in the identification of short and long-term capacity needs through coordination with regional and international institutions and to make proposals in this regard;

10. *Welcomes* the contributions of Germany, Italy, Japan and Norway to the strengthening of the Small Island Developing States Unit, and encourages other Member States to make contributions, in particular, in support of the Small Island Developing States Information Network;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States";

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution II
Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles and commitments enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[9] adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, and the principles embodied in the Declaration of Barbados[10] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable

[9] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex I.

[10] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

Development of Small Island Developing States,[11] adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 1994, as well as other relevant declarations and international instruments,

Recalling the Declaration[12] and review document[12] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,

Taking into account all other relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, including resolution 54/225 of 22 December 1999,

Reaffirming the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea[13] and emphasizing the fundamental character of the Convention,

Conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole,

Taking note of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, signed at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 24 March 1983, which contains the definition of the wider Caribbean region of which the Caribbean Sea is part,[14]

Welcoming the adoption, on 16 October 1999 in Aruba, of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region,

Welcoming also the entry into force of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region,

Recalling the relevant work done by the International Maritime Organization,

Considering that the Caribbean Sea includes a large number of States, countries and territories, most of which are developing countries and small island developing States that are ecologically fragile, structurally weak and economically vulnerable and also affected, inter alia, by their limited capacity, narrow resource base, need for financial resources, high levels of poverty and the resulting social problems and the challenges and opportunities of globalization and trade liberalization,

Recognizing that the Caribbean Sea has a unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystem,

Emphasizing that the Caribbean countries have a high degree of vulnerability occasioned by climate change and variability, associated phenomena, such as the rise in sea level, the El Niño/Southern Oscillation phenomenon and the increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters caused by hurricanes, floods and droughts, and that they are also subject to natural disasters, such as those caused by volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes,

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[11] Ibid., annex II.

[12] See resolution S-22/2, annex.

[13] *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

[14] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1506, No. 25974.

Welcoming the establishment of the working group on the El Niño/La Niña phenomenon within the framework of the Inter-Agency Task Force on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,

Bearing in mind the heavy reliance of most of the Caribbean economies on their coastal areas, as well as on the marine environment in general, to achieve their sustainable development needs and goals,

Recognizing the Caribbean Environment Outlook process currently being undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme and welcoming the support being provided by the Caribbean Environment Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme towards its implementation,

Acknowledging that the intensive use of the Caribbean Sea for maritime transport, as well as the considerable number and interlocking character of the maritime areas under national jurisdiction where Caribbean countries exercise their rights and duties under international law, present a challenge for the effective management of the resources,

Noting the problem of marine pollution caused, inter alia, by land-based sources and the continuing threat of pollution from ship-generated waste and sewage as well as from the accidental release of hazardous and noxious substances in the Caribbean Sea area,

Taking note of resolution GC(44)/RES/17 of 22 September 2000 of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency on Safety of Transport of Radioactive Materials, adopted on 22 September 2000,

Mindful of the diversity and dynamic interaction and competition among socio-economic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources,

Mindful also of the efforts of the Caribbean countries to address in a more holistic manner the sectoral issues relating to the management of the Caribbean Sea area and, in so doing, to promote an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development, through a regional cooperative effort among Caribbean countries,

Noting the efforts of the Caribbean countries, within the framework of the Association of Caribbean States, to develop further support for their concept of the Caribbean Sea as an area of special importance in the context of sustainable development and in conformity with the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[13]

Cognizant of the importance of the Caribbean Sea to present and future generations and its importance to the heritage, the continuing economic well-being and sustenance of people living in the area, and the urgent need for the countries of the region to take appropriate steps for its preservation and protection, with the support of the international community,

1. *Recognizes* the importance of adopting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development;

2. *Encourages* the further promotion of an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development, in accordance with the recommendations contained in General Assembly resolution 54/225, as well

as the provisions of Agenda 21,[15] the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[11] the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly[12] and the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and in conformity with relevant international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;[13]

3. *Encourages* the continued efforts of the Caribbean countries to develop further an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development and, in this regard, to continue to develop regional cooperation in the management of their ocean affairs in the context of sustainable development, to address such issues as land-based pollution, pollution from ships, as well as the diversity and dynamic interaction of and competition among socio-economic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources;

4. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and the international community to assist Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to ensure the protection of the Caribbean Sea from degradation as a result of pollution from ships, in particular through the illegal release of oil and other harmful substances, from illegal dumping or accidental release of hazardous waste, including radioactive materials, nuclear waste and dangerous chemicals, in violation of relevant international rules and standards, as well as pollution from land-based activities;

5. *Calls upon* all relevant States to take necessary steps to bring into force, and to support the implementation of, the Protocol concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities, in order to protect the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from land-based pollution and degradation;

6. *Calls upon* all States to become contracting parties to relevant international agreements to promote the protection of the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from pollution and degradation from ships;

7. *Invites* intergovernmental organizations within the United Nations system to continue efforts to assist Caribbean countries to become parties to the relevant conventions and protocols and in implementing them effectively;

8. *Calls upon* the international community, the United Nations system and the multilateral financial institutions, including the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, actively to support the above-mentioned approach;

9. *Calls upon* Member States to improve as a matter of priority their emergency response capabilities and the containment of environmental damage, particularly in the Caribbean Sea, in the event of natural disasters or of an accident or incident relating to maritime navigation;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-seventh session, under a sub-item entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" of the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account the views expressed by relevant regional organizations.

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[15] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.